

VZCZCXRO0417
PP RUEHTRO
DE RUCNDT #0633 1780026
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 270026Z JUN 09
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6803
INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY 2029
RUEHRN/USMISSION UN ROME PRIORITY
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY 3791

UNCLAS USUN NEW YORK 000633

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PREL](#) [AORC](#) [PGOV](#) [KUNR](#) [UNGA](#) [SN](#)

SUBJECT: AMB. RICE ADDRESSES UN SMALL STATES FORUM

¶1. Summary - At the June 23 Forum of Small States (FOSS) held within Singapore's Mission to the United Nations, Ambassador Rice delivered remarks and participated in a discussion on development, security, democracy, climate change, the financial crisis, and the role of the United Nations in helping address global issues. - End Summary

¶2. In his capacity as head of the Forum on Small States, Singapore's Ambassador to the UN Vanu Gopala Menon opened the session, saying that now, more than ever, small countries and small economies needed to make their voices heard. Echoing one of the UN's guiding principles of sovereign equality for all members, Ambassador Menon said that every country needed be given consideration, particularly in a time of crisis.

¶3. Ambassador Rice spoke next, emphasizing the central role that small states play in the UN system. Ambassador Rice emphasized the diverse nature of FOSS member states - a group that includes both Finland and Haiti, Barbados and Kyrgyzstan - calling upon each state to shape a UN system that more readily bridged North/South divides, and more effectively cut across regional groups and interests.

¶4. In closing, Ambassador Rice stated that the United States had a unique ability, and sometimes a unique responsibility, to help address some of the challenges that confront all nations, and reiterated that the U.S. remained committed to defending the right of all countries - large and small - to express their opinions and advance their legitimate interests.

¶5. Following Ambassador Rice's comments a number of Permanent Representatives and forum participants spoke. Ambassador Martin Palous, the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic, responded to the broad call for UN reform, stressing the need for an organization capable of responding to the challenges of our time. He noted that in the past the United States had often remained on the sidelines of UN debate, but was now thankfully an active participant.

¶6. Ambassador Paul Kavanagh from Ireland followed-up on Ambassador Palous' statement, saying that the UN now enjoyed a tremendous opportunity to get back to the center of the global debate. He stressed that "now is not the time to ask the Americans what they are going to do, rather now is the time for (small) states to muster the courage and imagination to see what (they) are going to do".

¶7. Before passing the floor back to the Permanent Representatives, Ambassador Menon interjected, complementing Ambassador Rice and the U.S. Mission on their "even-keeled" handling of the contentious Economic and Financial Crisis Conference negotiations.

¶8. Ambassador Rice thanked Ambassador Menon and complemented all delegations on the hard work they had put into negotiations. Ambassador Rice also noted the valuable operational insight contained in the Small States Forum, and encouraged representatives to act as force multipliers,

making manifest the values championed by the United Nations not only within the Institution itself, but throughout the United States and elsewhere.

19. Ambassador Federico Alberto Cuello Camilo from the Dominican Republic closed the forum, agreeing with the suggestion that a responsible, efficient and effective UN was the very best form of institutional advocacy. Lastly, Ambassador Camilo said that the United Nations did not need new bodies or new mechanisms as some delegations had suggested; rather member-states needed to use the system that currently existed more effectively.

RICE